

HILL-STEAD MUSEUM

The Pope Family's Grand Tour

ANSWER KEY - Episode 5, El Escorial and Toledo, Spain, 1888

BONUS MARKS

Answer to the Bonus question from Episode 4:



Hannibal's father was called Hamilcar Barca (circa 275 – 228 BCE). The language spoken in Carthage (northern Africa, near present-day Tunisia) was called Punic, and derived from Phoenician. The family name, Barca, translates from the Punic as "lightning." Hamilcar is said to have gained this name based on the swift and punishing raids his army used against the Roman army in Sicily during the First Punic War (247 BCE).

In 237 BCE, he traveled to Spain to re-establish Carthage's claims and possessions in that region, and to secure a source of silver from the mountains near Cordoba.

Madrid

"The Rain in Spain" is a song from the 1956 musical, *My Fair Lady*, written by Alan Lerner and Frederick Loewe. The sunny weather that is typical for the city of Seville gives rise to a version of this phrase: 'La Lluvia en Sevilla es una maravilla,' or "the rain in Seville is wonderful." Not many visitors to Seville can say they have seen the city in the rain.



The coat of arms for the city of Madrid shows a bear and a strawberry tree, or 'El Oso y el Madroño.' The bear has been a part of the design since 1212, appearing on a banner of a detachment of troops from the Madrid area at the Battle of Las Navas de Tolosa. The bear was shown with seven stars on its back, representing the constellation of Ursa Major, also known as the Big Dipper. Over the years, the symbol has changed, with the seven stars now appearing on the blue border of the coat of arms.

Another significant change occurred in 1222, with the inclusion of a tree with red fruit. The bear is now standing up, reaching for a tasty fruit from the madroño, *Arbutus unedo*, or strawberry tree. The strawberry tree is a small

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shrub, native to the Mediterranean, with fruit that resemble lychees. The fruit is used to make jams, jellies and can be fermented to make a liqueur.



The strawberry tree was included in the coat of arms to help resolve a disagreement between the governing Council of Madrid and the church; both parties laid claim to forests and fields in the area around the town. King Alfonso VIII decided that the trees and land would belong to the city, while the animals would belong to the church. Hence, the inclusion of the strawberry tree on the coat of arms.

Plaza del Sol

First Footing refers to a tradition surrounding the first person to set foot in a house after the final stroke of bells after midnight on New Year's Day. Although there are regional variations, the core requirement is that the first person carries with them specific items to ensure luck to the household for the coming year. First footers often have symbolic objects, such as bread, salt, a coin, whiskey, and coal. The coal should be thrown onto the fire by the first footer, who will, in Scotland at least, wish the household "Lang may yer lum reek" - literally, long may your chimney smoke, meaning 'may you never be without fuel for your fire.'

Traffic on the Calle Alcalá

Traffic drove on the left side of the street in Spain until October 1 1924. The wide Calle Alcalá with traffic circulating on the left did not change to the current direction (driving on the right-hand side of the road) until 1926.

There are still several countries in the world where cars travel (and, indeed, all traffic travels!) on the left-hand side of the road. The majority of these places have historical ties to the United Kingdom. There is historical evidence to support the "case" for driving on the right. In 1988, archaeologists found a well-preserved track leading to a Roman quarry at Blunsdon Ridge, near Swindon, England. The ruts in the road on one side are much deeper than those on the other side, as

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would be the case with carts going in empty and coming out laden with stone. The ruts suggest that, at least at this location, the Romans drove on the left.



The United Nations held a Convention on Road Traffic in 1949, which established that each country must have driven on the same side of the road throughout that country. Before that, countries allowed driving on different sides of the road, depending upon local jurisdictions. In Canada, for example, up until the 1920s, four provinces drove on the left-hand side: British Columbia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia. Vancouver was the last city on the continent to make the switch on January 1, 1922. A further technicality - the Dominion of Newfoundland, changed from left-hand to right-hand driving in 1947, before joining Canada in 1949.

Sobrino de Botín & Other Old Restaurants

Ask the question, "what is the oldest restaurant in America?" You may receive different "acceptable" answers, depending upon which state you are in when you ask the question. Whether the establishment kept the same name, operated in the same location, or has operated continuously since inception.

In the case of The White Horse Tavern in Newport, R.I., many would argue that this is the oldest tavern in the United States still in operation. It was founded in 1673, although it was not formally named The White Horse until 1730. A notorious and successful pirate by the name of William Mayes, Jr. inherited the Tavern from his father in 1702 and received a license to sell all sorts of strong drink. The Tavern served as the home to the Rhode Island General Assembly until the 1730s when Colony House was completed.



The Preservation Society of Newport acquired the property in 1954 and, following a meticulous renovation, the Tavern reopened in 1957. The Tavern is still in operation, and visitors can enjoy a taste of classic New England cuisine along with a history lesson - artifacts on display include a Colonial-era 13-star flag. Legend has it that a friendly Tavern ghost has found himself a comfortable spot at the Tavern as well, just to the right of the fireplace in the main dining room!

Sobrino de Botín

The story goes that the artist Francisco de Goya worked as a waiter and dishwasher in the Cafe Botín. At the same time, he applied to the Royal Academy of Fine Arts. The restaurant no longer has employment records from the mid-1760s, so, unfortunately, this story remains unproven.

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What we do know is that Goya attempted to enter the Royal Academy of San Fernando at least three times - when he was 17, 20, and 34. He moved to Madrid in 1773 (aged 27) to work with the Royal Factory of Santa Barbara, where he produced designs for three series of tapestries over 20 years. Goya was finally elected to the Royal Academy in July 1780 and became the Assistant Director of Painting there five years later.



Goya greatly admired the paintings of Diego Velázquez (1599 - 1660) and produced a series of engravings in 1778 based on significant works of Velázquez in the Royal Collection, including Las Meninas.

The Century Plant is another name for the *Agave americana* or American aloe.



Although named "century," the plant typically only lives between 20 - 30 years. And, although named American aloe, it is not related to plants in the genus *Aloe*.

The Century plant is often cultivated as a decorative plant. Still, it has several practical uses in the kitchen and around the household:

- The plant will only bloom once, towards the end of its life, sending up a tall flower stalk that may reach up to 25 feet high. If this stalk is cut before the flowers bloom, a sweet liquid called aguamiel, or "honey water," will gather in the hollowed-out center of the plant. The liquid can be fermented to produce an alcoholic beverage called pulque.
- Agave nectar may be used as a natural form of sugar, with a low glycemic index.
- Fibers, taken from the leaves, can be turned into rope, matting, or even a type of coarse cloth.



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- In Mexico, the Century plant is called "mezcal," and is one of several varieties of agave used in the production of mezcal and tequila. When used for this purpose, the sugars are extracted by heating the heart of the plant in an oven.
- The leaf juice is known to have anti-bacterial, anti-inflammatory, and anti-fungal properties.

Bonus Question for Episode 5:

At the end of Episode 5, Theodate and her family set off by overnight train from Madrid to the southern city of Seville. There is a special symbol that is associated with Seville: No8Do.



Arms of Seville.

What is the meaning of this symbol? Why it is significant to the city of Seville?

Sources:

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